

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 ( ISO ) W

----- 007493

O P 301212Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 2325

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN PRIORITY 0472

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK PRIORITY

CNO WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MANAMA 879

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MARR, BA

SUBJECT : MIDDLE EAST FORCE STATUS

REFERENCE : (A) STATE 174770

(B) MANAMA 0875

(C) MANAMA 0859

SUMMARY: GOB REJECTS OUR APPROACH STATE REFTEL AND INSISTS ON SENDING US LETTER NOTIFYING US OF ITS PRESENT INTENTION THAT MIDDLE EAST FORCE ARRANGEMENTS TERMINATE JUNE 30, 1977. (DRAFT TEXT BELOW.) I THINK WE'VE HAD IT. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. I MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER JULY 30 TO LEARN THAT GOB HAD CONSIDERED OUR PROPOSAL FOR HANDLING ITS DECISION TO PUT TWO YEAR TIME LIMIT ON MIDDLE EAST FORCE PRESENCE AND HAD REJECTED IT AS INSUFFICIENTLY PRECISE TO SERVE GOB'S POLITICAL NEEDS DOMESTICALLY AND IN AREA. FOREIGN MINISTER GAVE ME DRAFT  
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LETTER WHICH GOB PROPOSES TO SEND US INDICATING ITS INTENT

TO HAVE MIDDLE EAST FORCE PRESENCE TERMINATED BY JUNE 30, 1977.

2. I EXPLAINED I MUST RELAY THIS TEXT TO WASHINGTON AND SEEK INSTRUCTIONS AND FRANKLY COULD NOT GIVE HIM ANY INDICATION OF HOW WE MIGHT REACT TO IT SINCE IT IS QUITE FAR FROM THE APPROACH WE HAD STRONGLY SUGGESTED. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION, I REPEATEDLY WENT OVER ARGUMENTS OF WHY BOTH GOVERNMENTS SHOULD SEEK TO MAINTAIN MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN THIS MATTER, PARTICULARLY IF THE GULF GOVERNMENTS WANT PLAUSIBLE BARGAINING CHIP TO TRY TO PERSUADE IRAQ TO ELIMINATE THE SOVIET PRESENCE. FOREIGN MINISTER STRESSED THAT GOB WANTS TO MAINTAIN CLOSEST RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. AND WELCOMES EVERY HELPFUL MANIFESTATION OF U.S. INTEREST IN THE GULF. GOB HAD RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT, PARTICULARLY IN ABSENCE OF PUBLIC IRANIAN AND SAUDI SUPPORT FOR MIDDLE EAST FORCE PRESENCE IN GULF, U.S. NAVY PRESENCE IS OF DOUBTFUL UTILITY IN MANIFESTING U.S. INTEREST EFFECTIVELY AND, IN ANY EVENT, IS CERTAINLY NOT IN THE POLITICAL INTEREST OF BAHRAIN WHICH HAS TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF THE U.S. NAVY PRESENCE WITHOUT HELPFUL SUPPORT FROM ITS NEIGHBORS. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID GOB SEES NO WAY OUT BUT TO COMMIT ITSELF TO U.S. NAVY'S DEPARTURE BY MID-1977. (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY REASON FOR GOB'S INSISTENCE ON MENTIONING THIS DATE IS THAT IT ALREADY HAS INFORMALLY SO COMMITTED ITSELF TO CERTAIN OF ITS GULF NEIGHBORS, PROBABLY USING THE FORMULATION "RENEWING THE U.S. NAVY TREATY FOR ONLY TWO YEARS". END COMMENT)

3. FOREIGN MINISTER AT SOME LENGTH EXPOUNDED ON GOB'S HOPE THAT SITUATION MIGHT CHANGE DRAMATICALLY AND FAVORABLY IN MANNER PERMITTING U.S. NAVY PRESENCE BEYOND 1977 IF THAT IS WHAT USG WANTS. AT SAME TIME, HE NOTED GOB'S NEED TO ACCEPT REALISTICALLY THE LIMITATIONS ON ITS FREEDOM OF ACTION IN ARAB WORLD, GULF, AND WITH ITS OWN PEOPLE AND THAT THIS NEED DICTATES INFORMING US IN WRITING OF ITS INTENT FOR U.S. NAVY TO DEPART BY JUNE 30, 1977.

4. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER GOB PROPOSES TO SEND US. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS LETTER WOULD REQUIRE NO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON OUR PART. WORDS IN PARENTHESES ARE TEXTUAL CHANGES WHICH I SUGGESTED ON THE SPOT AND TO WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER AGREED SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL AFFAIRS MINISTER.

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QTE EXCELLENCY:

I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO YOUR EXCELLENCY'S LETTER DATED 28TH JULY 1974, CONCERNING THE CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN OF ITS POSITION ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO USE FACILITIES IN BAHRAIN UNDER THE TERMS CONTAINED IN THE AGREEMENT OF 23 DECEMBER 1971, BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. (AND TO YOUR LETTER OF JULY 1 1975 INDICATING CONCLUSION IN A MANNER SATISFACTORY

TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS OF THE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS OF CERTAIN  
ISSUES RELATED TO THE U.S. NAVY PRESENCE IN BAHRAIN.)

IN THIS CONNECTION. I WISH TO STATE THAT, IN THE LIGHT  
OF DETAILED DISCUSSIONS, AND CONSIDERATIONS OVER THE LAST  
SIX MONTHS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN, ABOUT ITS POSITION  
REGARDING THE CONTINUED PRESENCE, IN THE FUTURE, OF THE U.S.  
NAVY'S MIDDLE EAST FORCE IN BAHRAIN, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF  
THE AFOREMENTIONED AGREEMENT, THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN HAS  
FINALLY ARRIVED AT THE FOLLOWING (POLICY) DECISION:

IN VIEW OF PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA, IT  
WOULD (AT PRESENT APPEAR TO) BE BOTH BENEFICIAL AND EXPEDIENT  
TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO RELINQUISH AND EVENTUALLY DIS-  
CONTINUE THE PRESENCE OF THE U.S. NAVY'S MIDDLE EAST FORCE IN  
BAHRIN ON AND AFTER THE 30TH JUNE 1977. ACCORDINGLY, (THE  
GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN HAS CONCLUDED: THIS WORDING TO REPLACE  
ORIGINAL "IT HAS BEEN DECIDED") THAT THE AGREEMENT EFFECTED ON  
23 DECEMBER 1971, BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE U.S. NAVY TO USE FACILITIES IN BAHRAIN  
(SHOULD: THIS WORDING TO REPLACE THE ORIGINAL "SHALL") BE  
FINALLY TERMINATED ON AND AFTER THE 30TH JUNE 1977.

IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT THE DECISION OF  
THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN TO TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT OF 23  
DECEMBER 1971, ON THE AFOREMENTIONED DATE SHALL IN NO WAY AFFECT  
THE RESPECTIVE RIGHT OF EITHER PARTY, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF  
THE SAID AGREEMENT, TO REQUEST ITS TERMINATION WITHIN A SPECIFIED  
PERIOD WHICH MAY F TED BEFORE THE 30TH JUNE 1977

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 ( ISO ) W

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O P 301212Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 2326

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN PRIORITY 0473

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK PRIORITY  
CNO WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MANAMA 879

MEANWHILE, I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY MY GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE THAT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AFTER THE TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT OF 1971, WILL CONTINUE, AS IN THE PAST, TO BE GOVERNED BY A SPIRIT OF CLOSE FRIENDSHIP, UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION.

ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. MOHAMMAD BIN MUBARAK AL KHALIFA, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, STATE OF BAHRAIN UNQTE

5. COMMENT: IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER, AS IN RECENT TALKS WITH AMIR AND OTHER MINISTERS, I GOT IMPRESSION GOB FEELS TRAPPED INTO NOTIFYING US OF TWO YEAR LIMIT IN ORDER TO DEPOLITICIZE U.S. NAVY ISSUE AT HOME AND IN GULF AND THAT TOP BAHRAINIS RATHER DESPERATELY HOPE USG WILL UNDERSTAND "LITTLE BAHRAIN'S" POSITION, ACCEPT IT GRACIOUSLY, AND GO ON TO BUILD U.S.-BAHRAINI RELATIONS ON A NEW AND "MORE MODERN" BASIS. I AM AFRAID WE ARE AT THE END OF OUR NEGOTIATING ROPE ON THIS ISSUE AND, SINCE GOB EXPECTS NO RESPONSE TO ITS PRO-SECRET

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POSED LETTER, SEE NO SENSIBLE ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ACCEPT IT. PLEASE NOTE I MADE SEVERAL EFFORTS TO FURTHER WATER DOWN GOB'S LANGUAGE BUT FOREIGN MINISTER WAS UNYIELDING.

6. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS SOONEST.  
TWINAM

SECRET

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MARR, BA  
**To:** STATE  
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